

Appl. No. 10/087,024
Amdt. dated December 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 702-020310

REMARKS

This Amendment is supplemental to the Amendment filed October 17, 2003. Claims 1-15 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. In view of this amendment and of the following remarks, Applicants believe that all the asserted rejections are in condition for withdrawal and all the claims are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, claims 1, 2 and 7-10 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,242,381. The undersigned has filed a Terminal Disclaimer for the above-identified patent application, which obviates the double-patenting rejection. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0650 in the amount of \$110.00 for the Terminal Disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d). This application and U.S. Patent No. 6,242,981 are commonly owned.

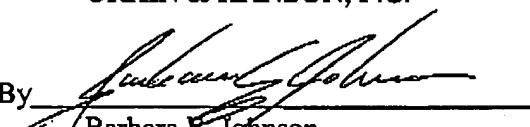
Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete a portion of the claim which is not central to the invention, which can be practiced without the use of the elicitor.

For all the foregoing reasons, claims 1-15 are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By


Barbara E. Johnson
Registration No. 31,198
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com